

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Previously presented) A biaxially-oriented polyester container formed by a double-stage orientation blow molding method, the container having a uniformly elongated bottom part having uniform wall thickness, wherein when an X-ray diffraction measurement is performed in a bottom center area and within 1/2 of the radius of a container bottom part of said biaxially-oriented polyester container, a peak indicative of molecular orientation is observed near a diffraction angle of $2\theta = 15$ to 30° and an orientation parameter (BO) expressed by the following formula (1) is in the range of $0.5 \leq BO \leq 2$ in the bottom center area and within 1/2 of the radius of the container bottom part:

$$\text{orientation parameter (BO)} = I_x / I_y \quad (1)$$

wherein I_x indicates a diffraction intensity near the diffraction angle of $2\theta = 15$ to 30° when the X-ray diffraction measurement is performed in the X-direction, and I_y indicates a diffraction intensity near the diffraction angle of $2\theta = 15$ to 30° when the X-ray diffraction measurement is performed in a direction orthogonal to that for I_x .

2. (Currently amended) A method of manufacturing a biaxially-oriented polyester container defined in Claim 1, the method comprising the steps of:

(a) performing two-stage primary orientation blow molding of a preform made of a polyester resin to obtain a primary molded product larger than a final molded product, wherein the bottom part of the primary molded product is restrained by a stretch rod and a press rod in the first stage, and the bottom part of the primary molded product is released from the restrained state in the second stage;

(b) heat-shrinking said primary molded product into a secondary molded product[,,];
and

(c) performing secondary orientation blow molding of said secondary molded product to obtain the final molded product, ~~wherein in the step of blow molding the bottom part of said primary molded product, the primary orientation blow molding is performed with the bottom part of said preform released from a restrained state.~~

LAW OFFICES OF
CHRISTENSEN O'CONNOR JOHNSON KINDNESS^{LLC}
1420 Fifth Avenue
Suite 2800
Seattle, Washington 98101
206.682.8100